

last chapter. He himself shows no taste for speculations beyond the immediate range of his particular experiment, and does not attempt to replace Ehrlich's explanation with one of his own, but he believes strongly that the latter in spite of his great ingenuity has to strain his theory too far in the attempt to cover the facts, and that in many instances the facts are not covered.

In closing we would compliment Dr. Gay on a peculiarly excellent translation, as well as on his judgment in bringing these papers before the English-speaking public. J. L. W.

Technik der Extensivverbände. By Drs. Bardenheuer and Grassner. Fourth Edition. 1909.

This small work is so well known to those interested in the handling of fractures that it scarcely seems necessary to analyze the whole contents of the publication. Eminently practical and full of suggestions, the book has deservedly won a popular place in the library of German-speaking physicians who have had abundant opportunity to test the methods recommended by Bardenheuer. In the reviewer's opinion, Bardenheuer's results in Cologne are the best he has ever seen. Anatomically they are perfect. Instead of using splints as is usually done, he corrects the various displacements and in fractures of long bones maintains extension, by strips of adhesive plaster applied in such a manner as to overcome the action of the different muscles. While this has given excellent results in his own hands, others have frequently had considerable difficulty in handling these strips. We are therefore pleased to note that on pages 14 and 15 of this edition he recognizes the many advantages of Heusner's extension bandage which he describes in full.

Heusner's method is simple of application and may be quickly applied under the most varied circumstances. It will support a traction of 30 or 40 pounds. For example, in cases of fractured femur, a solution of fresh Venetian turpentine 50 parts and 70% alcohol or benzine 100 parts are sprayed or painted over the lateral portions of the leg and thigh. Over this is applied a strip of flannel blanket 3 or 4 inches wide and 2 to 2½ yards long, in such a manner as to form a sling about 10 inches below the sole of the foot. Care should be exercised to see that the bandage comes over the external and internal malleoli. Finally a circular bandage of starched gauze is applied from the malleoli to the trochanters, the knee and malleoli being included in the bandage. It is, of course, understood, that the general rules laid down by Bardenheuer for extension bandages must be followed. Counter-extension is applied at once. The bed must be flat, which requirement is easily obtained by putting some object like a house-door under the mattress; no sliding foot-piece is necessary and a pulley may be dispensed with. While a weight of 30 pounds may be at once applied, it has been found advisable to begin with about 10 pounds, gradually increasing this by adding 2 pounds every 2 hours until the maximum weight is attained. After a day or two, when the femur has regained its normal length, the weight is gradually lowered to about 14 pounds, which is maintained for a few weeks.

This method of dressing fractures commends itself on account of its cheapness, and from the fact that it may be applied quickly and without much special training. No irritation of the skin has been observed and the dressing may be readily changed if necessary. It is applicable to fractures of both the upper and lower limbs. From a rather large personal experience the reviewer is convinced that Heusner's bandage in the treatment of fracture cases offers great advantages over most of the other methods commonly employed. P. C.

Vital Economy. By John H. Clarke, M. D. A. Wesels. Newold Pub. Co., New York. 1909.

This little work breathes a spirit of kindly tolerance for the peculiarities and prejudices of the individual, at the same time offers a happy mean, in its suggestion to practice reasonableness in all things, whether it be food, drink or the care of one's body. The text of its little sermon might properly be, "Every one is a law unto himself." Withal the work contains much sound and wholesome common sense, presented in a plain, colloquial manner. Its perusal will afford a pleasing and satisfying half hour. J. C. S.

The Propaganda for Reform in Proprietary Medicines; sixth edition. Containing the various exposures of nostrums and quackery which have appeared in the Journal of the American Medical Association. Price, paper, 10 cents; cloth, 35 cents. Pp. 292. Illustrated.

This book presents in convenient form most of the exposures that have appeared in the Journal of the American Medical Association showing fraud either in the composition of various proprietary preparations or in the claims made for such preparations. Not all of the products dealt with, however, are such as are—or have been—used by the medical profession. Many preparations of the "patent medicine" type have been subjected to analysis, and the results of such examinations appear in this volume. The book will prove of great value to the physician in two ways: 1, It will enlighten him as to the value, or lack of value, of many of the so-called ethical proprietaries on the market; and 2, it will put him in a position to answer intelligently questions that his patients may ask him regarding the virtues (?) of some of the widely advertised "patent medicines" on the market. After reading the reports published in this book physicians will realize the value and efficiency of simple scientific combinations of U. S. P. and N. F. preparations as compared with many of the ready-made, unstable and inefficient proprietary articles.

New and Nonofficial Remedies, 1910. Containing descriptions of articles which have been accepted by the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry of the American Medical Association, prior to Jan. 1, 1910. Paper. Price, paper, 25 cents; cloth, 50 cents. Pp. 256.

This is the 1910 edition of the annual New and Nonofficial Remedies, issued by the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry of the American Medical Association, and contains descriptions of all articles approved by the Council, up to Dec. 31, 1909. There are also descriptions of a number of unofficial non-proprietary articles which the Council deemed of value. The action, dosage, uses and tests of identity, purity and strength of all articles are given. As an illustration of the scope of the book, attention is called to the following: The articles on arsanic acid and its derivatives, page 35; on phenolphthalein, page 152, and on epinephrine, page 73, indicate the effort which the Council is making to have new remedies known by their correct names. The description of medicinal foods, page 120, should put physicians on their guard as to the small value of such products. Particular attention is called to the description of serums and vaccines, page 169. Since our knowledge of the therapeutic value of new remedies is still largely in the experimental stage, the statements which appear under each proprietary article are based largely on the claims made by those interested. On the other hand, on page 56, under creosote carbonate, is a note on the claims of non-toxicity often made for certain remedies. A similar caution in reference to the claimed harmlessness of intestinal antiseptics appears on page 41 under betanaphthol benzoate.